

## Trick or Treat

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to frighten children. It gets sweeter.

Fraternity Council President Jac Carrington, a fourth-year marketing and management student, says the goal of "Trick or Treat with the Greeks" is to "reach out to the community, kids and faculty and brighten their day however we can."

Gentry McCreary, a graduate assistant in the Office of Greek Life, says the function was initially introduced to USC to "bring Greek communities together to do a large project for the outside community."

The Greek councils are inviting members of the USC faculty and staff to bring their gruesome offspring, or costumed children, to participate in the event.

"We would love to see the faculty and staff of USC bring their children to trick-or-treat. It is a way for us to say 'thank you' for

all of the hard work that they do for us," Carrington says.

This is the second year the Greek councils are scaring the local Boys and Girls Club. Last year, it was held in McBryde residence hall, creepy enough as that was.

"Last year, we had people dressed as troll dolls, and they had their hair sprayed with colors too," Bratcher says.

Carrington says, "We want the kids to dress scary."

Halloween, brought to America by Irish immigrants, originally existed as a farmer's way to ward off spirits that emerged from their fields during changes in farming seasons. It is now a widely accepted "holiday" in the American culture.

The event is from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday at USC's Greek Village. The festivities include a fall carnival, face painting, haunted lounges and — of course — trick-or-treating.

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## Politics

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campaign; so, when her friend told her that there was an opening for a volunteer on Clark's campaign, Flick signed up.

Robinson got her position because she had worked for S.C. Sen. Joe Wilson. Interestingly, she befriended Sunny Phillips' mother-in-law, who works for the S.C. Senate as well, so when the State House announced it was terminating all paid positions, Phillips' mother-in-law was there to help with an opportunity to work under her daughter-in-law.

As for having to balance their time between their jobs and their schoolwork, neither Robinson nor Flick seems to have much trouble; political service is just one more activity on the list of many that both of them participate in. Aside from being president of the USC

Young Democrats and volunteering for Wesley Clark's campaign, Flick also is a member of the Psi Chi psychology honors society, attends meetings for Students Allied for a Greener Earth and volunteers at the Democratic Headquarters. As for budgeting her time, Flick said, "you learn to make time for the things you really love."

Robinson is also on the executive board for her sorority, Alpha Chi Omega, is vice chairwoman for the S.C. Student Legislature and is a member of the Academic Responsibilities Committee, the Veterans Affairs Committee at USC and Alpha Lambda Delta, a national society of collegiate scholars.

"A lot of the people who work with me are also very young, and they understand that we have other responsibilities outside of our jobs. If I tell them I have to take time off for school, they understand, but I've never had to do that; usually, I'll just stay up really late," Robinson said.

One of the perks of having jobs like the ones Robinson and Flick have is that you get to meet famous and influential people. In her time volunteering in politics, Robinson has gotten to know Gov. Mark Sanford and Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer as well as several other S.C. congressmen, all of whom she says she could call for help in finding a job.

Flick said she has gotten to meet most of the Democratic presidential nominees, including U.S. Sen. John Edwards and Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, and she has also gotten to meet several local and state politicians, as well as Jim Clyburn, U.S. congressman for South Carolina's District 6.

Robinson wants to be a congressional lobbyist someday, while Flick wants to be a political science professor and maybe eventually go into politics. However, both agree that no matter what you plan to do in the future, volunteering time for politics can give you experience that

is applicable in any field.

"I've worked with many different people with many different ideas, and it has helped to open my mind. I also feel like I greatly improved my work ethic, while gaining a sense of what it's like to give of oneself and not expect anything in return," Flick said.

Robinson pointed out that her work in politics has helped a great deal to improve her people skills, particularly in the area of public speaking.

"I would recommend volunteering in politics to anybody, no matter what their interests. You find yourself dealing with more than just politics as usual: I've used many of the things I learned in business and finance in the job, and it has helped me to see how these things are integrated with the political process," Robinson said.

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## Economy

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decades, so it's pretty well established," he says. "I would say our forecasting program is the longest-running statewide economic outlook program."

The implications of a weak economy have been evident at

USC. The university sustained another reduction in funds in what President Andrew Sorensen commonly refers to as "draconian budget cuts." This is the first year in the modern era that USC has had more of its annual budget funded by tuition revenue than by state money.

Schunk said a recent rise in consumer spending and an improving housing market are good

indications that economic growth might be on its way. Consumer confidence is especially important for the economy during the impending holiday season, when retailers and small businesses typically see crucial revenue surges.

"I have been and remain pretty optimistic," Schunk says about the coming year. He says students looking for jobs after graduation shouldn't be daunted by high un-

employment figures, as they reflect the entire economy and not a particular student's skills or preparedness for work.

"All the time in the state's economy, there are jobs that are being created and jobs that are being lost, so there are always opportunities out there," he says.

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## Religion

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dent organizations, the Muslim Student Association, has about 30 members weekly, said MSA president Fozail Alvi, a fourth-year biology student. Alvi said members are "primarily of the Muslim faith," and that the goal of MSA is to "meet other new Muslims and learn more about Muslim faith."

While the primary goal of college is to provide an education, what is it about the college atmosphere that causes some students to think about religion?

"Students are on a spiritual quest," Wall said. But it isn't only the quest that brings students to religion. "Students are not as shy

with institutional church and organized religion as past generations," he said.

While exploring religion, some students reach a point where they feel as though there is something deeper in life.

"Religion gives another level of meaning to existence," Alvi said.

James Alford, a graduate assistant in the Religious Studies Department, agrees that college can serve as a catalyst for interest in religion.

"College atmosphere promotes more free thinking," Alford said.

But students don't end their quest with thinking freely. "More importantly, college students come to conclusions regarding religion," Alford said.

The desire to become more involved with religion can translate



PHOTO BY DAVID STAGG/THE GAMECOCK  
The cast of Sunday Night Alive has a prayer before its performance in the Russell House Theater.

to academics, including taking religious studies courses.

Whether seeking to understand a particular religion academically or as a faith, USC has

resources available in a wide range of areas.

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All student Organizations who took part in Homecoming 2003.

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